

HONORING THE NATIONAL  
ACADEMY OF INVENTORS**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 2, 2012*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Academy of Inventors, which was founded at the University of South Florida in Tampa in 2010. Working in collaboration with the university, the mission of the National Academy of Inventors is to recognize and encourage inventors, add to the visibility of innovation and technology stemming from the university, and to educate and encourage innovative students to create and patent inventions that are beneficial to all of society.

I am certainly proud of the research under way in my backyard at the University of South Florida. More importantly, their efforts are training our nation's future researchers and innovators to keep the United States on the cutting edge, particularly in the health field. In fact, USF was among 14 universities listed in the top 300 organizations worldwide to receive patents from the United States Patent and Trade Office in 2010.

Though USF houses the National Academy of Inventors, universities and nonprofit research institutions throughout the nation and world are also invited to form local chapters, and inventors affiliated with the academic community supporting the local chapter, who have had a patent issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, are eligible to join. Thus far, 29 local chapters have formed.

I truly applaud the work of the National Academy of Inventors for encouraging teachers, faculty, and students to push their research efforts and find new and better technology and solutions. I look forward to watching them continue to expand and set a national climate favorable to the research and entrepreneurship community.

ON REINTRODUCING THE WILDLIFE  
VETERINARIANS EMPLOYMENT  
AND TRAINING ACT (WILDLIFE  
VET ACT)**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 2, 2012*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Wildlife Veterinarians Employment and Training Act (Wildlife VET Act). This legislation will develop affordable and well qualified opportunities for individuals who are seeking to become wildlife veterinarians, spur job growth, and promote robust public health policy.

Wildlife veterinarians are the primary source of essential health care for and management of wild animals in their natural habitat and in captivity. Not only do they preserve natural resources and animal lives, but they help protect human health by preventing, detecting, and responding to exotic and dangerous diseases.

With the intensification of globalization and climate change, along with a growing interface between humans, livestock, and wildlife, the threat posed by emerging infectious diseases to humans and wildlife keeps increasing. Con-

trolling pandemic and large-scale outbreaks of disease has become more problematic.

Furthermore, wildlife veterinarians have the resources and expertise necessary to help respond to environmental disasters and address short-term and long-term impacts on wildlife and their habitats. Wildlife veterinarians have proven to be essential to the rescue and rehabilitation efforts in the Gulf of Mexico region following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that began on April 20, 2010.

In spite of these threats to both wildlife and public health, the United States faces a shortage of positions for wildlife veterinarians. In addition, veterinarian graduates owe an average of \$130,000 in student loans, and salaries for wildlife professionals are relatively low compared to companion animal medicine. Lower salaries, combined with high educational debt and the small number of positions available, discourage students from becoming wildlife veterinarians. The number of practical trainings and formal educational programs specializing in wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine are also insufficient.

My bill will directly address these issues which dissuade veterinarians from practicing wildlife medicine. It will contribute to the national job creation effort by funding new positions for wildlife veterinarians and will ensure that veterinary students find jobs upon graduation. The bill will also limit the amount of educational debt for students while providing incentives to study and practice wildlife veterinary medicine through the establishment of scholarships and loan repayment programs. Lastly, my legislation will advance education by helping schools develop pilot curricula specializing in wildlife veterinary medicine and by expanding the number of practical training programs available to students.

Mr. Speaker, we have reached a point in our history when we cannot ignore the importance of protecting America's wildlife. Wild animals are a very important part of our commonly held natural resources and contribute to maintaining a balanced ecosystem. With an increasing number of endangered species, the introduction of invasive non-native species, and more infectious disease threats, wildlife veterinarians must be placed at the core of our efforts and be given the resources and recognition necessary to protect both animal and human lives.

I urge my colleagues to extend a helping hand to America's veterinarians by supporting this important piece of legislation.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF ELLEN BERNSTEIN, NA-  
TIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE LA-  
DIES AUXILIARY AND JEWISH  
WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 2, 2012*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Elaine Bernstein, National President of the Ladies Auxiliary Department of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV), on the occasion of her official visit to the dedicated members of the Department of Florida Ladies Auxiliary. The gathering

of these dedicated advocates for our nation's veterans is truly a cause for celebration.

Jewish Americans have a long, rich history of service in our armed forces. Over half a million Jewish Americans fought for the United States in World War II, and 11,000 of them perished while fighting for this country. Jewish Americans have served in Korea, Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, and countless other missions around the globe. They are among the brave young men and women who served in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks, and who are serving in Afghanistan as we speak. For the past 83 years, JWV's mission has been to support for these heroes, strengthen the American values of liberty and equality, and to combat bigotry and anti-Semitism.

Elaine Bernstein has played a vital role in advancing JWV's mission across the country. She began her career of volunteerism at the tender age of four, when she became a mascot for her local Auxiliary junior division. After a lifetime of dedicated service, Elaine was elected President of JWV in August of 2011. I am humbled to welcome this accomplished leader to Florida's 19th district, which I am proud to say is home to one of our nation's largest chapters of the Jewish War Veterans of America.

It is a privilege to represent members of the Department of Florida Ladies Auxiliary, who share the belief that in America, no veteran should become a forgotten hero. Because of their work with the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, our people will continue to honor the contributions of the Jewish American men and women who for centuries have not only shaped our national culture, but defended our people in times of great challenge.

## BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 2, 2012*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, over 3 million cases of child abuse are reported every year in the United States; some reports involve multiple children. These children are 11 times more likely to be arrested for criminal behavior as juveniles, and they are 2.7 times more likely to be arrested for violent and criminal charges as an adult. One-third of these same children are likely to grow up to abuse or neglect their own children. Child abuse is an ugly reality in the fabric of our society, and abuse against children is among the most heinous crimes committed in our nation. I'd like to honor a group of individuals who are dedicated to establishing security for these children, while demonstrating a new standard of sacrificial giving.

Bikers Against Child Abuse, BACA was founded by John Paul Lily, a clinical sociologist. Mr. Lily wanted to bring an abused eight year old boy out of his shell and succeeded by bringing him into his circle of motorcycle friends. This group of unconventional child advocates allowed for this young boy to experience a second chance at an unhindered childhood. Soon, Mr. Lily was inspired to organize a ride to visit mistreated children and to welcome them into the biker "family." This inaugural ride had 27 riders, but word spread

quickly and the movement evolved. Today, this group is in full operation across the country and has chapters in 5 other countries.

Local chapters work largely through other child advocacy organizations to launch their "missions," which help children break the chains of abuse by moving beyond the limits of fear from past mistreatment.

A typical "mission" for these children's rights advocates begins with a dispatch from an established organization, with the pre-screened verification in the BACA system. The first meeting is similar to the inaugural model in which local chapter members will ride over to welcome the child into the "family." These knights on shiny motorcycles become a much needed lifeline for these frightened children. There are two members of the group that are assigned to the child as consistent sources of stability. These pioneering bikers then become visible in any area that the child may need them ranging from day-to-day errands to court appearances. These children no longer have to live in fear of their abuser because they are empowered through the newly formed camaraderie with their family at BACA.

The organization's creed is a great testament to the outstanding make up of these individuals. In this creed, they denounce the need for popularity or position, they refuse the right to be right, praised, or recognized. Instead they, "won't give up, shut up, let up, until they have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and showed up for all wounded children. They must go until they drop, ride until they give out, and work till He stops me." These men and women are crusaders that provide attention to a much needed and too often forgotten cause. I commend the selfless action of this organization and celebrate the life changing difference that they've made in the lives of children.

And that's just the way it is.

#### TRIBUTE TO JUDGE VIRGIL PITTMAN

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 2, 2012*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice with many across South Alabama who are mourning the loss of a remarkable jurist who left an indelible mark on our community. Judge Virgil Pittman recently passed away at the age of 95.

Born in 1916 in Coffee County in Southeast Alabama where he picked cotton as a young man, the future state and federal judge spent his life devoted to fairness for all.

Before he began his legal journey, Judge Pittman graduated from Enterprise High School, the University of Alabama and the University of Alabama Law School. Upon completion of his studies, he served as a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. After three years with the Bureau, he answered his nation's call to service in World War II, donning the uniform of a United States Navy Lieutenant Junior Grade.

Returning stateside after the war, Judge Pittman practiced law in Gadsden, Alabama, for six years before assuming the post of Judge of Alabama's Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, a position he held for 16 years. In 1966,

Judge Pittman exchanged his State Circuit judgeship robe for one on the federal bench after he was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson. His career as a federal judge encompassed service in the Middle and Southern Districts of Alabama, spanning 40 years.

In 1971, Judge Pittman became the chief judge of the federal court in Mobile. He was never one to shy away from taking tough positions that he believed were right. This made him unpopular with those who opposed his strong stance against Mobile's then citywide commission form of government. Judge Pittman believed the old system was unfair to non whites and those without political influence. He stood his ground and in the end prevailed.

There were times when Judge Pittman's rulings drew criticism from local politicians and the press, but his determination never wavered. The Mobile Press-Register recently editorialized that Pittman brought many changes to the city, noting he "changed Mobile for the better and forever."

If Judge Pittman was an outspoken advocate for civil rights and equal justice for our community he was also a man solely devoted to public service. In all, he sat on the bench for 55 years, taking great pride in his vocation and seeking little reward other than the knowledge that he did what was right.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I would like to extend my condolences to his wife, Lily Lea, their children, Karen, Lee, Joe, Walter, and Lea, and their many grandchildren and friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

#### RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION

#### HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 2, 2012*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important contribution United States educational institutions have made to innovation and discovery and to congratulate the 13 American universities who were on the list of the top 300 organizations to receive patents from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in 2010.

I am honored to represent one of these universities, the University of South Florida, USF, whose researchers and students were awarded 83 patents that year. Founded in 1956, USF is currently comprised of four member institutions, located in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee, and Lakeland, FL. One of Florida's leading academic institutions, USF is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the top tier of research universities, a distinction attained by only 2.2 percent of all universities.

The patents awarded to USF in 2010 cover a wide range of disciplines and could potentially lead to better health care, new fuel cell technologies, improved air purification systems and even future amusement park rides. USF also distinguishes itself as the second most efficient university in research expenditures per patent. This means that USF effectively uses their limited research funding in the development of new patentable products. The University's focus on quality research is a major

component in the growth of new industries in the Tampa Bay area and I am glad that their important work is being recognized.

USF has shown a commitment to encouraging innovation not only on their campus, but also throughout the academic community and, in 2010, founded the National Academy of Inventors, NAI. Upon founding, 131 members joined as Charter Members and since then 24 affiliate chapters have been founded at higher learning institutions around the world, with over 500 individual members. The researchers at our colleges and universities often do not receive the attention they deserve and this non-profit organization works to recognize researchers at universities and their affiliated institutions who translate their findings into inventions that may benefit society.

Since the establishment of our Nation, the United States has recognized the important role that innovation plays in growth and development. Our Nation's Founders were wise enough to include protection for intellectual property rights in Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution and every day new advances are being made throughout the country that may one day improve our quality of life, spur economic growth, and lead to new technologies. We must continue to support institutions like USF that promote and encourage advances in research, especially when it leads to the awarding of new patents.

I am privileged to represent the students, teachers, and faculty at USF and extend my congratulations to the University's current and future patent holders. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing their achievements and wish USF continued success in the future.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES BELL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE- TIREMENT

#### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 2, 2012*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize one of my constituents from Chicago, James Bell, as he retires from The Boeing Company after 40 years of service to Boeing and its heritage companies. James is retiring as corporate president and chief financial officer of Chicago-based Boeing, the world's largest aerospace company and America's biggest manufacturing exporter. He is the highest-ranking African-American employee in the company's nearly 100 years of history. His legacy at Boeing transcends race and reflects a record of accomplishment, service, and leadership that came during a time of significant change. During Bell's career, Boeing expanded from being primarily a commercial airplane manufacturer to a company with a diverse portfolio of commercial, military, and civil products and businesses. Boeing's workforce, which includes over 170,000 employees, also has become more diverse, and James helped to make it so. James played a critical role in shaping this diverse workforce, sharing his life experiences, modeling outstanding leadership and mentoring others to become the leaders of tomorrow.

James Bell grew up in south central Los Angeles, the youngest of four children of Clyde